THE RURAL DISTRICT OF HASTINGS.

St. Rode,
London Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea.
8th April, 1921.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Rural District of Hastings for 1920.

Natural & Social Conditions of the District.

Population.

The population at Census 1911 was 1768, and the estimated population for 1920 is 1953.

Physical Features and General Character.

The district is a sparsely populated agricultural area, situated to the North East of Hastings, and includes the Parishes of Fairlight, 2995.551 acres, Guestling, 3575.859 acres, Pett, 2025.008 acres, and a part of Ore.

The Rateable Value is approximately £14561.

The sunlight average compares favourably with that of other districts on the South Coast.

Social Conditions.

The Inhabitants are chiefly agriculturalists. The houses are scattered, and there is no appreciable amount of overcrowding.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is extraordinarily small. Hospital accommodation is provided in case of need by the East Sussex Hospital.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

Total Number - 32.	Male - 14.	Female - 18.	
Legitimate	" 11.	" 16.	
Illegitimate	" 3.	" 2.	
Birth Rate 20.100.			

Deaths.

Total Number - 19.	Male - 7.	Female - 12.
Death Rate 11.925.		

Causes of Death.

Malignant Disease.	4.
Organic Heart Disease.	3.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3.
Violence.	1.
Diphtheria.	1.
Other defined diseases.	7.
	19.

Ages at Death.

Over 80 years.	3.
" 70 "	3.
" 60 "	4.
" 50 "	3.
" 40 "	3.
" 20 "	2.
Unknown	1.
	19.

Respiratary Death Rate:-

Bronchitis	0
Pneumonia	0
Phthisis	1.884.
Zymotic Death Rate	.621.
Cancer.	2.512.
Infantile Death Rate	0.
Senile Mortality (over 65, from all causes).	5.025.

Sanitary Conditions of the District.

Water. The district is well supplied with water, which is soft and of good quality and quantity. Samples are taken occasionally for analysis. The Borough of Hastings Waterworks supply on the intermittant system, 8 houses in Fairlight and 22 in Ore.

Rivers & Streams. There is no pollution of rivers and streams. Part of the Royal Military Canal is situated within the District.

Drains & Sewerage. The sewerage is chiefly by means of cess-pools. closets and a few privies. Having regard to the character of the District, these arrangements are sufficient.

A part of Ore, contiguous to the Boundary of Hastings, is drained into the Borough sewers. Disposal is by spreading on the land, sewage works being at present unnecessary.

Sanitary Inspection. In connection with the Sanitary administration, the Inspector has paid 760 visits of inspection. Defects have been found and remedied.

Premises controlled by Bye-laws. There is one slaughter house in the district, which has been visited several times during the year. There are two factories and fifteen workshops, which are all visited frequently by the inspector, and defects in cleanliness have been remedied. There are no underground sleeping apartments.

Food.

Milk Supply. Sufficient milk is produced in the district to supply the inhabitants, and to send a large quantity to Hastings. The Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milkshops Order is strictly enforced. No action has been taken with regard to tuberculosis milk. All the cow-sheds & dairies have been visited by the inspector.

Milk & Cream regulations. This work is undertaken by Officers of the County Council.

Mothers & children Order. Arrangements have been made for the distribution of milk for necessitous mothers and children.

Other foods. The district is well supervised by the County Council Inspectors. Bakehouses are periodically inspected, and lime washing enforced.

Sale of Food & Drugs Act. This is also in the hands of County Council Officers.

Prevalence & Control over infectious Diseases.

The following notifications have been received during the year:-

Measles.	1.	Chicken Pox.	1.
Scarlet Fever.	2.	Diphtheria.	3.

Maternity & Child Welfare. A Lady Inspector acts for the County Council in this matter.

Sanitary Administration Staff. The staff consists of one sanitary inspector and an assistant for dairies, cowsheds and milkshops.

Acts in force. The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.
" " ". (Prevention) Act, 1890.
Part 3 of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890.

Hospital Accommodation. Provision is made for the immediate isolation of all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric, etc. in the Borough of Hastings Sanatorium.

In the event of an outbreak of Smallpox, a contract has been entered into with the same Council, whereby any cases occorring in the Rural District will be isolated and treated in the Hastings Smallpox Hospital.

The Council has made no special provision for sanatorium treatment of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, but, when necessary, cases from the district are sent to sanatoria elsewhere.

Housing.

General Housing Conditions. Number of houses - 4934.
The Housing accommodation is inadequate.
34 houses are in progress of erection, and will shortly be completed. 18 of these being erected by the Council, and it is contemplated erecting more in the near future.

The plans of the houses in the course of erection and of alterations and addition to existing houses represent an approximate cost of £50,000.

Overcrowding. There is no serious overcrowding.

Fitness of Houses.

The general standard is fair. The most usual defects found are defective roofs, outside walls, eaves and gutters, insufficient drainage and sanitary accommodation.

In connection with the Housing & Town Planning Act, the Inspector has paid 620 visits. He found 40 houses with defects, which were remedied without closing orders. No houses were found unfit for habitation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANK S. LEWIS,

Medical Officer of Health,

for the Rural District of

Hastings.

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